

Message Text

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15

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1083

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MR, SG

SUBJ: MAURITANIAN-SENEGALESE RELATIONS

REF: A. NKC 1046; B. DAKAR 3030, C. NKC 0940

1. AT PRESS CONF. ON HIS RETURN FROM TRIP TO MEXICO, US AND FRANCE JUN 1, PRESIDENT SENGHOR WAS ASKED ABOUT A RUMORED MALAISE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN MAURITANIA AND SENEGAL RESULTING FROM DIFFERENCES OVER THE MAURITANIAN-SENEGALESE BOUNDARY. PRESIDENT REPLIED DIFFERENCES WERE ONLY "AN EPISODE IN FORMATION OF REGIONAL GROUPINGS." HE SAID MAURITANIA AND SENEGAL HAD BEEN REASONABLE ENOUGH TO ACCEPT A MALIAN PROPOSITION ON BORDER QUESTION.

2. WHEN JOURNALIST INTERVIEWING PRESIDENT SENGHOR REFERRED TO GUINEAN RADIO BROADCASTS ABOUT BORDER DISPUTE, SENGHOR SAID CONAKRY RADIO IS NOT ALWAYS FULLY INFORMED ABOUT SENEGALESE MATTERS.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH DCM AT RECEPTION MAY 31 ABOARD
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VISITING DUTCH WARSHIP, SENEGALESE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S

MILITARY CABINET CHIEF CAPT. AHMADOU FALL REFERRED TO SENEGAL-MAURITANIA BOUNDARY DISPUTE. HE SAID THAT WHEN TWO COUNTRIES BECAME INDEPENDENT, THERE WAS NO ARGUMENT, AND FRONTIER WAS SET AT HIGH WATER LEVEL ON RIGHT (ESSENTIALLY NORTHER) BANK OF SENEGAL RIVER. AS TIME PASSED AND DROUGHT FORCED NOMADIC MAURITANIAN HERDSMEN TO BECOME SETTLED FARMERS, LATTER HAVE MOVED INTO RICH RIVER VALLEY AND BEGUN TO WORK LAND ALONG RIVER BANK FROM WHICH FLOOD WATERS RECEDE. SINCE SENEGALESE FARMERS HAVE WORKED THOSE LANDS FOR YRS, THIS HAS PRECIPITATED CURRENT DISAGREEMENT.

AGGREY

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